

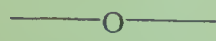
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ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

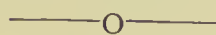
and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for

1956

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for

1956

Atherton Urban District Council

Public Health Committee

Chairman:

Councillor P. JONES.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor J. J. QUINN.

Councillors

W. BRETT
W. CAMPBELL
E. DONOGHUE
W. J. GEORGE
O. HATTON

A. HOLLIDAY
P. HUGHES
S. LOVELESS
G. W. NALLY
A. D. NUTTER

H. PARTINGTON
H. D. ROSENTHALL
R. SHAW
J. STIRZAKER
C. URMSTON
J. WESTWELL.

Public Health Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:

FRANK MARKLAND, M.S.I.A.

Cert. R.S.I. for Meat Inspection.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR:

THOMAS McGUIRE, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., I.S.A.A. (Dip.)

Cert. R.S.I. for Meat Inspection.

PART-TIME CLERICAL ASSISTANT:

Miss A. STREET.

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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Atherton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ending 31st December, 1956, together with certain relevant statistical information thereto.

Statistics.

The population of the district, following the Census of 1951, has been notified as 20,596.

During the year there were 305 live births, as compared with 253 the previous year, and 13 still births. The Live Birth Rate has increased from 1955, being 15.2 per thousand this year, and the Still Birth Rate takes a fall from 42 to 22 per thousand total births.

Again I am pleased to report no deaths as a result of child-birth.

Infant Mortality shows an increase, as the Infantile Death Rate stands at 23, as compared to last year's 12.

Deaths from all causes totalled 256, giving a corresponding Death Rate of 14.3 for 1956.

Health Services.

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Administration Scheme 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district.

Essential details of the services provided will be found in Section B of the body of this Report.

Infectious Disease.

There has again been no serious outbreak of notifiable infectious disease in the district during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances.

As previously, the sanitary circumstances of the district have been kept under close review during the year, special attention being paid to food, water supplies, housing, smoke abatement and refuse disposal.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR.

SECTION A.

Statistics



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SECTION A. STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area in acres—2,265.

Population:—

1951 Census—20,596.

Mid 1955 Estimate—20,030.

Number of inhabited houses—6,511.

Rateable Value—£161,425.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£625.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	....	143	149	292
Illegitimate	....	6	7	13
Total	....	149	156	305

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population).....15.2

Still Births:—		Males.	Females.	Total.
		4	3	7

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)..... 22

Deaths—All Causes:		Males.	Females.	Total.
		117	139	256

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)..... 12.8

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population)..... 14.3

Maternal Deaths Nil

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) Nil

Infantile Deaths 7

Infantile Death Rate 23

Neo-Natal Deaths 4

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate 1.3

Adjusted

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS.

	Infant Mortality													
	* Live Births				Stillbirths		* Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Total		Neo-natal	
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births		
Year 1956.....	305	15.2	7	22	256	14.3	nil	nil	7	23	4	13		
Year 1955.....	253	12.6	11	42	262	14.0	nil	nil	3	12	3	12		
Year 1954.....	277	13.7	4	14	239	12.6	nil	nil	6	22	4	14		
Year 1953.....	318	15.1	2	6	437	22.9	nil	nil	14	44	9	28		
Year 1952.....	323	15.2	11	33	252	13.1	nil	nil	5	15	2	6		
Year 1951.....	264	12.9	10	36	275	13.4	nil	nil	2	8	1	4		
Ave. 5 years— 1950-54.....	—	14.2	—	27.6	—	14.7	—	0.65	—	22.6	—	14.6		

* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 12.6 per 1,000.
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.12) = 14.5 per 1,000.

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1956.

Registrar General's Return.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2
Tuberculosis, other .....	...	...
Syphilitic Disease .....	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Meningococcal Infections .....	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	...
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	..	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	...	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	8	7
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes .....	...	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	16	33
Coronary Disease, Angina	22	17
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	3
Other Heart Disease	13	20
Other Circulatory Disease	5	9
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	4	5
Bronchitis	11	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	...	...
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	...	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	...
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	...	...
Congenital Malformations .....	...	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	9	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	2
All other Accidents	3	3
Suicide	2	..
Homicide and operations of war .....	...	...
TOTAL	117	139

TABLE III.
VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth and death-rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1955.

(Provisional figures based on Registrar-General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population mid-1956 — 44,667,000.

	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population
Births:		
Live births	699,059	15.7
Stillbirths	16,431	0.37
		23.0(a)
Deaths:		
All causes	521,402	11.7
Tuberculosis (all forms)	5,373	0.12
Respiratory	4,851	0.11
Non-respiratory	522	0.01
Cancer (all forms)	92,701	2.08
Lung and bronchus.....	18,185	0.41
Other cancer	74,516	1.67
Maternal mortality (total)	401	0.56(a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	330	0.46(a)
Due to abortion	71	0.10(a)
Infant mortality	16,471	23.8(b)
Neo-natal mortality	11,780	16.9(b)
Notifications (corrected):		
Typhoid Fever	132	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	434	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	1,163	0.03
Scarlet Fever	33,096	0.74
Whooping Cough	92,396	2.07
Diphtheria	63	0.00
Erysipelas	4,377	0.10
Smallpox	nil	nil
Measles	160,459	3.59
Acute Pneumonia	25,432	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis:—		
Paralytic	1,708	0.04
Non-paralytic	1,497	0.03
Acute Encephalitis:—		
Infective	174	0.00
Post-infectious	106	0.00
Dysentery	48,982	1.10
Food Poisoning	11,008	0.25
Puerperal Pyrexia	11,672	0.26
Tuberculosis:—		
Respiratory	31,642	0.71
Meninges & C.N.S.	434	0.01
Other	3,739	0.08

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

SECTION B.

*General Provision of Health
Services for the Area.*

SECTION B.

Ambulance.

Atherton and Leigh Ambulance Stations. Tel. Leigh 939.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer:—Miss J. M. Cole, 89, Railway Road, Leigh.

Clinics.

1. ANTE-NATAL.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon

2. ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday a.m.

3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

(i) Alder House Clinic.

By arrangement, Monday afternoon of the 2nd and 4th week.

(ii) General Practitioner Service

4. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

5. OPHTHALMIC.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday a.m.

6. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley.

2nd Wednesday afternoon each month

7. POST-NATAL.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon

8. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday a.m.

9. SPEECH THERAPY.

Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

10. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY AND CHEST CLINIC

Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

11. VENEREAL DISEASES.

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males and Females—Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

(ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Females—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 4-30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service.

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

Home Help Service.

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service.

Two full-time District Nurses employed in the district.

Hospitals.

1. **General**—Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital.
2. **Infectious Disease**—Astley Hospital, Astley; Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton,
3. **Maternity**—Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Maternity Homes.

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Haslam, Havercroft & Heaton Grange Maternity Homes, Bolton.

Midwifery Service.

Domiciliary midwives employed whole time in the area by Lancs C.C.

Nursing Homes.

None in the district.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.

Residential accommodation at Hourigan House, Leigh, and Atherleigh Grange, Leigh.

X-ray Facilities.

At Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmarys. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

SECTION C.

*Prevalence of
and Control over Infectious
and other Diseases.*

SECTION C.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Chickenpox (Varicella).

This disease is not notifiable in the district.

Diphtheria.

No case was notified, but the need to protect the community by immunisation remains.

Dysentery.

Two cases were notified, neither of which were admitted to hospital.

Encephalitis.

No case of this infectious disease of the brain was notified.

Erysipelas.

One case was reported during the year, and this was admitted to hospital.

Food Poisoning.

Food poisoning is notifiable under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

No cases were notified.

Malaria.

One case was notified, the patient having contracted the disease whilst abroad.

Measles.

This year the number of cases was 278. Last year 316 cases were notified. The disease again tended to be mild in character and without untoward complications.

Meningococcal Infection.

No case notified.

Mumps (Infective Parotitis).

This infection of the salivary glands is not notifiable.

Paratyphoid Fever.

No case was notified.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-three primary cases were reported, as compared with fifteen the previous year, and there were nine deaths.

Polioencephalitis.

No case reported.

Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

No cases were reported.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three cases were notified, and all were admitted to hospital.

Scarlet Fever.

Nine cases were reported, as compared with twenty-two in 1955.

Smallpox (Variola).

No case occurred in the district during the year under review.

Vaccination and re-vaccination remain our most potent defensive weapons against the disease.

Tuberculosis.

Six new cases of pulmonary infection and one of non-pulmonary infection were notified. Last year there were fifteen and none respectively.

Two deaths from this disease occurred during the year.

Typhoid Fever.

No case was notified.

Whooping Cough.

Fifty-eight cases were notified, compared to fourteen last year.

Immunisation, which is now available, holds out the only immediate hope of reducing both the incidence and the morbidity.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1956.

23

TABLE V.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1956.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

DISEASE.	Hag Fold Ward	North Ward	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Sex		Total	Removed to Hospitals
							M.	F.		
Diphtheria ....	.	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
Enteric Fever ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ....	.	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1
Food Poisoning ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (except German Measles)	95	84	8	53	55	88	139	189	298	4
Meningococcal Infection	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	3	7	8	...	1	4	13	10	23	...
Acute Poliоencephalitis ....	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Ac Poliomyelitis ....	...	...	...	...	.	...	.	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	3	3
Scarlet Fever	5	2	2	...	...	...	6	3	9	4
Smallpox ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	16	14	12	6	5	5	28	30	58	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Malaria (cont. abroad).....	...	1	...	...	...	..	1	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—										
Males.....	1	2	1	...	...	1	5	...	5	5
Females.....	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	1	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis										
Males.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	2
Females.....	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	1
TOTALS	123	60	27	61	62	49	192	190	382	22

TABLE VI. Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years.

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	3	3	14	...	...	...	...	...	9	29	...	13	2
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	40	3	34	...	...	...	...	...	24	55	1	17	5
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	20	2	15	...	...	...	...	...	36	88	...	19	3
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	31	3	13	...	...	...	...	...	18	100	...	7	2
1920	24.1	12.1	...	109	24	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	15	49	...	2	2
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	29	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	8	52	...	1	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	42	...	1	...
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	78	...	...	...
1937	14.0	11.2	12.7	51	108	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	15	51	...	...	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	37	...	...	...
1940	15.5	12.0	...	35	9	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	7	88	...	...	...
1941	16.1	12.5	...	75	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	48	...	...	...
1942	16.5	10.3	...	74	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	42	...	...	...
1943	18.2	1.8	...	74	12	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	5	49	...	...	...
1944	16.29	91.86	...	60	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	9	70	...	...	...
1945	17.9	211.8	...	23	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	42	...	...	...
1946	17.6	10.9	...	33	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	22	...	...	...
1947	19.7	13.3	...	50	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	79	...	...	...
1948	15.2	10.0	...	28	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	104	...	...	...
1949	14.7	12.8	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	124	...	...	...
1950	14.0	11.5	13.7	24	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	15	28	...	...	...
1951	12.9	13.4	12.3	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	59	...	...	...
1952	15.8	12.4	14.2	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	97	...	...	...
1953	15.1	21.6	18.1	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	...
1954	13.7	11.8	22.9	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	27	...	...	...
1955	12.6	13.0	12.6	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	22	...	...	...
1956	15.2	12.8	14.3	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	9	...	...	...

SECTION D.

*Sanitary Circumstances
of the Area.*

SECTION D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The town's water is derived in bulk from the Manchester and Bolton main supplies. Each house is connected to the mains and has its own internal supply of water of good quality, which is maintained at constant pressure.

The water is bacteriologically examined and analysed at Manchester and Bolton at regular intervals; 54 local samples being so examined during the year under review.

There is a slight tendency to plumbo solvent action, for which it is treated by the supplying authorities before delivery to our mains. The tin lining of all lead service piping is insisted upon.

Streams.

Streams within the district are examined periodically to prevent pollution. There are no dye or artificial silk works in Atherton.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage is of the type known as the Combined System. Extensions to include housing estates were made during the year. Sewage is dealt with by the Leigh Sewerage Board.

Sanitary Accommodation.

At the end of 1956 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz.:—

Number of Privy Middens	Nil
Number of Closets attached to these Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets	5
Number of Trough Closets	7 (at schools)
Number of Waste Water Closets	673
Number of Fresh Water Closets	7061
Number of Dry Ashpits	Nil
Number of movable Ashbins.....	6678
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	6506
Conversions during 1955:—	
Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	64
Number of Trough Closets to Fresh Water Closets	Nil

The Council's scheme for the conversion of waste water closets was suspended by the Ministry of Health on the outbreak of war in 1939. An application for permission to resume the conversion of defective and broken waste water closets was allowed during 1952, the Council now making a contribution of £9 towards the cost of each conversion.

Disinfestation.

As previously, 5% D.D.T. solution has been used as a spray for disinfesting houses, supplemented where necessary by the removal of door and window casings, etc., together with scorching with a blow-lamp all exposed affected surfaces.

Two Council and two privately-owned houses were so treated during the year.

Scavenging.

A weekly collection of refuse is operative in the district, utilising four motor vehicles. Approximately 9,000 tons of refuse were collected and removed.

House refuse is finally disposed of at Millers Lane Tip, where the Ministry of Health's regulations in respect of control are practised.

Salvage of waste paper and metals, etc., was again maintained throughout the year, and the income from this source realised the sum of approximately £2,200.

Street sweeping is the responsibility of the Surveyor and is carried out by means of manual labour.

Factories and Workplaces.

These premises are inspected periodically, and the general condition is fairly satisfactory. Particulars are contained in Table VIII.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The destruction of rats and mice was continued throughout the year at premises within the district.

As a Public Health measure, no charge is made for rat destruction at private houses, but unfortunately there appears to be a belief that this act of grace relieves the occupier of all responsibility, with the result that they do very little to help themselves.

I would emphasise that the onus of ridding premises from rats and mice is on the occupier of the premises. Although the Council is willing to give every assistance in this direction, the Local Authority has the power to take action against any occupier who fails to carry out his obligations.

Warfarin is now used extensively in the treatment of business and other premises, and results are very satisfactory.

All the sewers were treated twice, and the usual method of three days' pre-baiting, followed by poison bait, was adopted. On each treatment this work necessitates the baiting of approximately 532 manholes in all parts of the district. Although the relative number of pre-bait "takes" was low, poison baits were placed in the majority of manholes.

Sausage rusk formed the pre-bait, to which Zinc Phosphide was added for the poisoning in the first treatment, and bread mash, plus Arsenical Oxide, was used in the second treatment, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

TABLE VII. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agricultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	17	6511	428	6956	22
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	2	85	25	112	—
(b) Survey under the Act	15	251	77	343	15
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)....	—	409	127	536	2
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	31	795	273	1019	25
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats } Major	—	—	—	—	—
} Minor	3	135	49	187	2
(b) Mice } Major	—	—	—	—	—
} Minor	1	31	5	37	—
V. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A.	4	166	54	224	2
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	8	198	54	260	2
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	Nil	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	Nil	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act					
IX. Legal Proceedings				Nil	
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out				Nil	
				Nil	

Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths are owned by the Council, who have installed a modern filtration and chlorination plant. They are maintained in a most satisfactory manner.

Samples of water taken from the plunge bath after a period of considerable usage have, on examination by the Public Health Laboratory, proved to be quite satisfactory.

All the water used for bathing purposes is drawn from the town's supply.

Schools.

The general structure of the schools in the town is in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises of this nature in the town.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Two houses are registered for this purpose, and generally are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Rag Flock Acts.

There is only one workshop in Atherton where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold. The sample submitted for examination was satisfactory.

TABLE VIII.
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PREMISES.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities....	10	19	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	88	95	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	5	7	1	—
Total	103	121	14	Nil

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops.

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found.	Abated.	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	7	7	2
Want of Ventilation	1	1	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	2	2	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	1	1	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	1
Other offences against the Act	1	1	—
Total	14	14	3

SECTION E.

*Inspection and Supervision
of Food.*

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Places under Inspection.

The number of food premises, by type of business, at the end of 1956, were as follows:—

Grocers	88
Bakers	22
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream, etc.)	37
Fried Fish Shops	19
Meat Shops (Butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.)	26
Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	8
Canteens, Snack Bars, etc.	49
Others	4

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, include:—

	No. of Premises.	No. of Inspec- tions during 1956
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit & Vegetables	17	26
do. Meat & Meat Products	2	6
Bakehouses	22	122
Fried Fish Shops	19	59
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises	6	27
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises	17	75
Ice Cream Shops	68	193

Food Inspection.

Premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of foodstuffs are inspected frequently, and are generally found to be maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Clean Food Bye-laws are now in operation in the town, and after overcoming initial difficulties, the department has obtained the willing co-operation of the majority of food traders.

Premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice cream have been regularly visited, and considerable improvements in the premises and the finished product have been effected. The "Codes of Practice" evolved by the Lancashire County Council have been adopted in order to maintain uniformity throughout the county.

There are 2 premises registered for the manufacture and 68 for the sale of ice cream.

20 samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue test, all of which attained Grade 1.

Food hawkers and their premises are registered and are visited periodically. Generally these are quite satisfactory.

Slaughter-houses.

There are four slaughter-houses licensed in the district, and in spite of the hurried preparation of them on the termination of the Live-stock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order, slaughtering of animals is proceeding fairly satisfactorily.

The details of animals killed and inspected are as follows:—

	Cattle Cows. (excl. cows)	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	
No. Slaughtered	851	1635	171	7031	423
No. Inspected	851	1635	171	7031	423
All Diseases other than T.B.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	—	2	—	6	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	204	783	15	851	97
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	24.0	30.6	8.8	12.1	22.9

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned	121	317	3	—	17
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with Tuberculosis	14.2	19.4	1.7	—	4.04

Cysticercosis.

Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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Unsound Food.

The food condemned as unfit for human consumption, other than that stated in previous paragraphs, was as follows:—

21 tins Corned Mutton	120 lbs.
26 tins Corned Beef	90 lbs.
8 tins Cooked Ham	80 lbs.
12 tins Cooked Shoulder	128 lbs.
34 tins Tongue	206 lbs.
13 tins Pork Luncheon	10 lbs.
8 tins Stewed Steak	8 lbs.
24 tins Jellied Veal	157 lbs.
125 tins Fruit (Pineapple, Peaches, etc.)....	158 lbs.
4 tins Evaporated Milk	2 lbs.
12 tins Vegetables	11 lbs.
29 tins Tomatoes	24 lbs.
Cooked Ham	2½ lbs.
Bacon	10 lbs.

Milk Supply.

Atherton has now become a designated area for the sale of milk, and the raw milk can only be obtained from 'Tuberculin Tested' cows. All other milk must be Pasteurised or otherwise heat treated before reaching the public, thus creating a barrier to the spread of the bovine type of Tuberculosis.

There are 18 farms in the district, with an approximate total of 250 cows. 59 milk shops are registered for the sale of bottled milk only. In addition, 3 Dealers' Licences for distribution of "Tuberculin Tested", 5 Licences for "Pasteurised" and 3 Licences for "Accredited" Milk were issued by the Council.

Action taken by the Local Authority in relation to:—

(a) Raw Milk:

- (i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—
No. of samples 32. No positive 1. No. negative 31.
- (ii) Methylene Blue Test—
No. of samples 32. No satisfactory 31. No unsatisfactory 1.
- (iii) Sediment tests—
No. of samples nil. No. satisfactory nil. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(b) "Heat treated" milk:

- (i) Phosphatase test—
No. of samples 3. No satisfactory 3. No unsatisfactory nil.
- (ii) Turbidity test—
No. of samples 3. No. satisfactory 3. No. unsatisfactory nil.
- (iii) Tuberculosis—
No. of samples nil. No. positive nil. No. negative nil.

All the farms are connected to the town's water supply.

32 samples of raw milk were submitted for the presence of tubercle bacilli, of which 31 were found to be negative and 1 positive, and this latter was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

32 other samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, 31 of which were found to be satisfactory.

No. of notifications of tuberculous milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—1.

Results of Ministry investigations during the year arising from notifications by the local authority—

No. of veterinary inspections—1.

No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938—1.

No. of animals seized—1.

No. of cases reported negative, where animals have been sold prior to investigation—nil.

No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized—nil.

Bakehouses.

22 Bakehouses are registered in the district, and are kept in quite a satisfactory condition.

Ice Cream.

68 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. So far as possible, registrations are restricted to the sale of “pre-packed” ices, or to where “cold-mix” is used. In two instances only is the “hot-mix” used for sale on the premises.

All the premises are visited periodically, and the requirements of the Ice Cream Regulations and the Food and Drugs Act are insisted upon.

20 samples were submitted for examination, all of which attained Grade 1.

Food Premises.

All shops, stalls, vans, food stores, food preparing premises, are inspected regularly as part of routine work.

Improvements, particularly in respect to cleanliness and washing facilities, have been obtained in a number of instances.

The requirements of the Lancs. C.C. (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, as to registrations of food premises, etc., are carried out.

Clean Food Campaign.

General advice and assistance to shopkeepers and food handlers is given by the Sanitary Inspectors when visiting the premises, and pamphlets have been distributed. Clean Food Bye-laws are now in operation, and, generally speaking, are favourably accepted by the food handlers.

Food Adulteration.

The Lancs. County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this work, and this Council the co-opting body. The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied me with the following information:—

A total of 102 samples was obtained, consisting of 70 samples of milk and 32 samples other than milk, comprising:—

- 3 Pepper—White.
- 3 Tea.
- 2 Treacle.
- 2 Salt.
- 1 Compound Bismuth Lozenges.
- 1 Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites.
- 1 Butter Toffees.
- 3 Ice Cream.
- 1 Nougat.
- 1 Molasses.
- 2 Pickles.
- 1 Mustard Paste.
- 1 Shredded Suet.
- 1 Cake Mix.
- 2 Christmas Pudding.
- 2 Cut Mixed Peel.
- 1 Flour.
- 3 Coffee.
- 1 Trifle Pack.

The samples were analysed by the County Analyst, who reports that with the exception of the following, all the samples were genuine.

Sample No.	Type.	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.
C.4929	Milk (Formal)	Deficient 13.3% fat.	Vendor interviewed and further samples obtained.
C.6751	Milk (Formal).	Freezing point indicates the presence of 0.5% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned & further samples obtained.

SECTION F.

Housing.

SECTION F.

HOUSING.

	Houses.	Flats
Number of New Houses erected during the year:—		
(i) By the Local Authority	44	44
(ii) By other Local Authorities	2	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	6	—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1173
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	1362
(2) Dwelling - houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) No found during year.....	217
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year.....	210
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	139

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repair and Rents Act. 1954:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:	
(a) Unfit houses	6
(b) Other houses	Nil
(2) Number of persons displaced.....	25

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of No. of persons houses. displaced.
Houses demolished or closed during year—	
(a) Housing Act, 1936—	
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section II)	1 —
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	— —
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	— —

- (b) Housing Act, 1949:—
- (i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2) — —
- (c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—
- (i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11(2) — —

(2) Repairs during the year:

	*No. of houses.
(a). Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	613
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners	30
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16). Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners	15
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954: Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7....	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

* A defective house remedied more than once during the year should be included once only.

Housing Acts, 1949-1954. Improvement Grants, etc.

Throughout the year advances were made in a number of instances under Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1949.

24 applications were made for Improvement Grants under Section 20, and these were approved by the Council, after investigation and recommendation by the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

General Inspections.

Houses (including re-visits)	1362
Newly infected houses.....	83
Schools	12
Factories and Workplaces	121
Bakehouses	220
Food-preparing places	208
Dairies	151
Miscellaneous	238
Shops	331
Slaughter-houses	617
Total	3343

And in connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found.	Remedied.
House roofs in need of repair	46	41
Defective W.C.'s	31	31
Choked or defective drains	31	31
Defective plaster of walls, etc.	73	67
Insanitary condition of yards.....	18	17
House walls damp	47	39
Defective eaves gutters	35	32
Defective window frames, sash-cords, etc.	31	28
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	15	15
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, burst pipes, etc.)	41	27
	368	328

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:—

Informal	....	....	....	....	289
Statutory	....	....	....	....	83

General Conditions and Observations.

As is usual with most industrial towns, there is in this district a large proportion of cottage property built in terraces. The average age of this type is from 80 to 90 years, and their condition is moderately well maintained. Other property, also in rows, of a better type, were built about 50 or 60 years ago. A fair number of these are owner occupied and generally maintained in good condition.

Practically all houses erected since 1920 are of the semi-detached type.

There are no back-to-back houses in the district.

General Observations.

In common with most towns, the shortage of houses is becoming less acute by reason of the provision of more Council and privately-built houses, but in spite of this, there remains a considerable number of applications for Council houses, chiefly for the two-bedroom type.

There is some improvement of the privately-owned terraced type of houses, as in many instances rents have been increased in accordance with the Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act, 1954. This, in turn, has given owners more encouragement to carry out repairs.

There appears to be an increase in the number of owner-occupiers of these smaller houses, and this indicates that tenants are becoming more 'house-proud'. Other tenants also are no longer satisfied with the older type kitchen ranges, and some, at their own expense, are providing tiled fireplaces and alternative cooking appliances, and in other instances the costs are shared between owner and occupier.

In general, rented houses are maintained in a fairly good standard of fitness, bearing in mind their age and type, but it must be admitted that there are some where neglect of repair is obvious.

Persuasion is the line of approach to the majority of landlords when we seek to get defective houses repaired, and only in extreme cases is it necessary to resort to Court procedure.

Clearance Area action has been taken in respect to 46 houses, but demolition of these had not been completed at the end of the year.

Three other houses were dealt with as individually unfit for human habitation.

SECTION G.

*Atmospheric Pollution
and
Smoke Abatement.*

Atmospheric Pollution.

Deposit gauges are provided, in addition to lead peroxide apparatus at the two stations set up at the St. George's School and Alder House sites.

The readings obtained are as follows:—

Monthly Deposits in Tons per Square Mile and Sulphur Dioxide by the Lead Peroxide Method.

	Rainfall in ins.	pH	Tons per square mile			SO ₂ /mg. day 100cm
			Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	
Alder House.						
January	4.37	4.0	12.94	6.50	19.44	3.74
February	0.63	4.7	10.13	3.90	14.03	4.08
March	1.22	4.7	14.27	5.68	19.95	2.83
April	3.70	3.9	12.94	10.30	23.24	2.71
May	1.06	4.7	17.02	6.47	23.49	1.96
June	2.13	4.4	11.50	4.79	16.29	1.58
July	8.47	4.3	13.10	13.14	26.24	1.23
August	10.80	3.8	12.66	35.59	48.25	1.62
September	3.19	4.4	9.48	4.93	14.41	1.73
October	2.64	4.2	12.22	7.35	19.57	2.66
November	1.50	4.3	7.67	5.54	13.21	3.13
December	2.92	3.9	13.21	7.15	20.36	2.74
TOTALS	42.63	4.27 Mean	147.14	111.34	258.48	2.50 Mean

St. George's School.

January	4.93	3.8	15.92	9.60	25.52	3.62
February	0.71	4.0	10.08	4.78	14.86	3.89
March	1.50	4.5	19.67	10.18	29.85	3.92
April	3.23	4.3	11.97	6.29	18.26	2.75
May	0.96	4.6	9.72	3.18	12.90	1.62
June	1.93	4.8	15.79	5.19	20.98	1.34
July	8.47	3.9	12.14	13.21	25.35	1.28
August	10.84	3.8	11.86	15.44	27.30	1.64
September	3.55	4.1	12.62	5.98	18.60	2.08
October	2.92	3.9	12.31	7.19	19.50	2.39
November	1.50	4.1	8.91	6.36	15.27	3.14
December	3.23	3.7	15.13	7.98	23.11	3.62
TOTALS	43.77	4.12 Mean	156.12	95.38	251.50	2.30 Mean

Full particulars of the observations are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Fuel Research Station, London, of which this Council is a member of the Standing Joint Committee.

This branch of Public Health work is being pursued by Local Authorities in all parts of the country. We all await the proposed Clean Air Bill and hope that the collaborated efforts of Local Authorities, Industry and Fuel Research Station, will lead to a healthier and cleaner atmosphere, to the mutual benefit of industry and the community in general.

Smoke Abatement.

25 smoke observations were taken during the year.

Bye-laws are now in operation controlling the emission of black smoke to a permitted maximum of 2 minutes in any half-hour.

As stated in previous reports and other occasions, the local Gasworks continues to cause considerable nuisance by the emission of smoke and fumes during the retort charging operations. It would appear that this is unavoidable, due to the horizontal type of retorts which are in use. This being the case, it would seem that now Atherton is linked by large gas-mains to neighbouring towns, the Atherton Gasworks should be either closed down and the supply of gas derived from other gasworks, or that other suitable measures should be taken to abate the nuisance.

Fairly close co-operation is maintained with industrial firms in efforts to combat the smoke nuisance.

SECTION H.

National Assistance Act, 1948
Section 47.

SECTION H.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the provisions of this section as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

SECTION I.

Shops Act.

SECTION I

SHOPS ACT.

A total of 331 inspections were carried out under the Shops Act, 1950.

The general standard of shop premises has again been well maintained.

Vitrolite, Formica and other good hard smooth and impervious materials have added grace as well as utility to meet the requirements of Food Hygiene Regulations and Bye-laws.

Mobile vans and food delivery vehicles are fitted with "vacuum-flask" principles of hot water containers, complete with small wash-basin, towel and soap. These and the facilities in the various shops of the sinks, wash-basins and W.C. accommodation, have been quite well maintained and kept up to standard throughout the year.

Considerable improvement has been achieved in the various Public Houses, which had got somewhat run down over the years.

The cellophane wrapping and packing of food has increased, as also the frozen food commodities. This is all to the good as these packages are most hygienic, clean and free from risk of contamination.

Shop lighting and ventilation has caused quite considerable effort on the part of owner and management, but some of the smaller shops do not seem to readily believe that a well-lighted shop is all the more cleaner for such an improvement. Dust and dirt cannot be hidden where the lighting is good throughout. At one particular shop (corner multiple store) where the lighting and display was thrown "boldly open", the sales have gone up tremendously, which factor soon appeased the Company and atoned for the "Notices served thereon".

Generally a good year.

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